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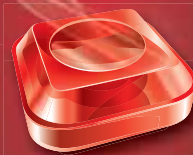
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NOMINEES NAMED FOR
EAST COAST MUSIC AWARDS PAGE 3



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A slice of Italian life

Piatto. Halifax pizzeria set to land international recognition

This is no ordinary pie they are serving up.

A delegation from Italy is coming to inspect Piatto Pizzeria on Hollis Street on Wednesday night, and if all goes well, the downtown Halifax restaurant will become the first in the Maritimes and 10th in Canada to receive the prestigious VPN certification from Naples, Italy.

"I would be lying if I said I wasn't anxious," said Brian Vallis, owner of Piatto, from inside his restaurant on Tuesday afternoon. "But you know, I trained in Naples with the VPN school, I know that we do everything right."

Three delegates of the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana Delegation will inspect the ingredients and watch carefully as the pizza is created and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Vallis, who runs Piatto in Halifax and St. John's with his daughters Kate and Jay, decided to bring authentic Italian pizza to Canada because he missed it so much. "My best friend is from Naples, so I spent time down there with him and fell in love with it," Vallis said.

What's in the pie?

- San Marzano tomatoes from the volcanic soils near Mount Vesuvius.
- Tipo 00 flour from Naples, with 79 C water temperature in dough, cooked directly on the stone deck of a wood-fired oven at 900 F for no longer than 90 seconds.

VPN has strict guidelines about how to make the authentic Naples pizza, right down to what temperature water goes into the crust.

"I love it. You know you're doing it in the same way they did it 200 years ago," said Kate.

"There's just something about following traditions, and knowing that in a complete other part of the world they're doing it the exact same."

Daniel Eagles is a regular customer at Piatto, and said on Tuesday the wood-fired crust keeps him coming back.

"You can tell the difference, there's just something about it," he said.

Vallis' daughter Jay said they go local whenever they can for toppings. "That way we get some of the local flair, local flavour, local taste," she said.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Pizza chef Jonathan Wells takes out a pizza from the huge wood-fired oven at Piatto Pizza on Hollis Street in Halifax, Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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BDO

Council backs study on residential speed limits

Drivers beware.

Councillors also discuss photo radar, school zones



RUTH
DAVENPORT

ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

The province's minister of transportation will get a letter from Halifax Mayor Mike Savage about residential speed limits that may touch on a few related issues.

The department of transportation under Maurice Smith is launching a study of speed limits to determine whether they should be lowered and under what conditions, following an accident involving a young girl in a Cole Harbour neighbourhood.

Coun. Lorelei Nicoll asked council to approve a letter from Savage supporting the study, and the motion was approved unanimously during Tuesday's regional council meeting.



Halifax's council meets for the first time on Tuesday in the newly renovated chambers in Halifax City Hall. JEFF HARPER/METRO

cil meeting.

Coun. Linda Mosher noted a previous trial found drivers didn't observe lower posted speed limits, and suggested the letter include a reiteration of the request to allow red light cameras and photo radar in HRM.

"The problem is residents going considerably over the limit that creates the safety

issue," said Linda Mosher. "If we were allowed to post signs saying cameras are in use, the offenders that are speeding could have a monetary fine, and the fines could be quite substantial."

Other councillors also took the opportunity to raise concerns about the new lower speed limits that apply in school zones "when children

are present."

Coun. Tim Outhit said he's heard from residents, educators and police officers that the law is "unenforceable."

"All anyone has to say is, 'I didn't see a kid,'" he said. "Could we go back to the province and say ... you need some rethinking about this criteria of 'When children

More from city hall

- Council awarded a \$7.2 million contract to Brycon Construction Ltd. for the expansion of the Burnside Industrial Park.
- Coun. Steve Craig gave notice he'll table a motion in late January asking for an exhaustive staff report into pedestrian crosswalk safety.
- An information report states an investigation is ongoing into the painting that eradicated the Morse's Teas sign. Staff considers it an unauthorized alteration and will make recommendations after the investigation.

are present?"

Municipal staffers will raise concerns about the school speed zones directly with provincial counterparts, rather than including them in the letter.

5 years on. Halifax Water governance to be reviewed

Coun. Steve Craig won a minor skirmish Tuesday over a request for a staff report to clarify the governance framework of the Halifax Regional Water Commission, and authority of regional council.

The report will also provide options, including making the water commission a department of HRM, for improving the governance.

Some veteran councillors protested the motion,

saying it was too soon to discuss reclaiming water-related responsibilities — five years after giving them away.

But others said a five-year review was a good idea, even if it led to no change at all.

"We're not making a decision today ... it's appropriate for staff to review and then we can debate whether it's been successful," said Coun. Wayne Mason.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

City approves funding for potential school expansion

Halifax regional councillors voted 16-1 on Tuesday in favour of funding to potentially add more gymnasium space at the new schools in Eastern Passage and Cole Harbour — space that would be available to the local communities as recreation facilities.

The plan is to work with the province to add 2,100 square feet — essentially another full gym — to each school, at a cost of \$630,000 apiece.

"This is tentatively a super good news story for Eastern Passage," said Coun. Bill Karsten, cautioning that in that case, it's not certain the building site can accommodate the proposed expansion.

There's no such concern at the Cole Harbour site, and Coun. Lorelei Nicoll said she'll be looking for a cast-iron joint use agreement that will guarantee community access in return for the municipal funding.

"We all have schools in our districts that sit there idle, they're not being used," she said. "And that's in part the reason, there is no joint use agreement."

Coun. David Hendsbee was the lone dissenter on the motions, saying the funding should include an area rate — as was the case for other recreational facilities outside the urban core.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

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Wintersleep, Mays top ECMA nominations list

Halifax rocks.

25th-anniversary festival and gala to be held in March



HALEY RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Wintersleep and Matt Mays lead the pack of nominees for this year's East Coast Music Awards, and organizers say the festival will bring a weeklong party to Halifax.

The 25th-annual music awards will be in the city from March 6 to 10, and more than 150 bands representing more than 30 genres are set to entertain the crowds.

"It really shows the quantity and the quality of the type of bands we have here on the East Coast," said Scott Burke, executive director of the East Coast Music Association.

During an announcement on Tuesday at Casino Nova Scotia, all of the nominees were revealed and Seymour Stein, legendary music executive, was named as a keynote speaker.

Stein is vice-president of Warner Bros. Records and he's credited with bringing the Ramones, The Pretenders, Madonna and The Smiths into the mainstream.

Halifax's Christina Martin, who performed at the press conference, was nominated for

Music matters

"Music is a seminal part of our lives."

Scott Burke, executive director, East Coast Music Association

Good show

Who scored the most ECMA nominations?

- 6: Wintersleep
- 5: Matt Mays
- 4: Rose Cousins, Radio Radio, Rich Aucoin, Tim Chaisson

pop recording and songwriter of the year.

Martin last won an ECMA in 2009, but said there's not too much pressure to come home with one this time.

"I've been doing it long enough to know to be grateful for any award that comes your way," she said.

Ben Caplan, nominated for his first ECMA for the rising-star recording and folk-recording categories, was hoping to be in the running but wasn't sure it would materialize.

"It's momentous, it's very exciting," the Halifax singer-songwriter said after performing on Tuesday. "It has this feeling of the East Coast Music Association opening up their arms and you're being welcomed into this community of musicians."

A highlight of the gala awards show will be a performance by Natalie MacMaster, and a section of the show will focus on the history of East Coast music.

Eastlink was announced as the title sponsor for East Coast Music Week, and will broadcast the gala awards show and a new red-carpet event to what is expected to be a large televised audience.

A complete list of the nominations is posted at ecma.com.



Christina Martin plays her signature sound to a crowd gathered at Casino Nova Scotia's Schooner Showroom, during a press conference in Halifax on Tuesday to announce the nominees for the East Coast Music Awards. The awards will be handed out in March. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Rock around the clock

'We'll be going into the wee hours'

There'll be no time for rest at the ECMAs, said Scott Burke, executive director of the East Coast Music Association.

"It is non-stop music," he said on Tuesday. "We'll be going into the wee hours

every night, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. So nobody's sleeping."

He said the wristbands and fan passes give the best access for people who love any genre.

"They can just bop around downtown and stop in at lots of the showcases," he said.

Also planned is a red-carpet event before the final awards gala at the Cunard

Centre.

"Eastlink will produce a red-carpet show, just like you might have seen on the Golden Globes," Burke said. "There will be photo opportunities, interviews. So everyone has to go out and buy a nice new dress and a good suit."

The full schedule of ECMA events will be released on Feb. 13.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Nominee Ben Caplan performs on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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NDP MLA Howard Epstein leaving politics

Moving on. Five terms in office for popular Halifax-Chebucto representative

Halifax-Chebucto MLA Howard Epstein, one of the NDP's most respected and outspoken members, announced Tuesday he will not be running in the next provincial election.

The Dalhousie University

Schulich School of Law professor and lawyer of 40 years expressed disappointment over not being selected to Premier Darrell Dexter's cabinet, but insisted that wasn't a factor in his decision to move on.

"I don't deny my frustrations and disappointments but that isn't the reason for my decision," said Epstein on Tuesday.

"It was the premier's choice, he decides how he wants to structure his cabinet; he chose

Darrell Dexter's take

- **Premier's message.** In a statement released by the premier's office, Darrell Dexter thanked Howard Epstein for his commitment to the party and the province.

otherwise. I don't say I'm not disappointed; I am disappointed but that's just the way that

my life turned out."

Epstein, a former municipal councillor, was first elected MLA in 1998, and has been re-elected in 1999, 2003, 2006, and 2009.

He is also resigning from his teaching position at the end of the term.

"My moment to move on has come. I'm very proud to be elected so many times in my constituency and of all the voters and supporters who worked for me."

Epstein said he's most proud of the measures his government has taken to protect the environment, from banning uranium mining in the province to the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank.

But he admitted he's always been frustrated with the amount of time it takes to get things done in government.

"Even getting the smallest thing done has been striking."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO



Halifax-Chebucto MLA Howard Epstein METRO FILE



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vary depending upon type of property and location. For 2.99%, 3 year fixed rate offer, APR is **3.04%**. For 3.59%, 7 year fixed rate offer, APR is **3.61%**.² We will pay the basic title insurance fee, processing fee and one discharge fee (up to \$300 maximum). Offer excludes mortgage prepayment charges that you may have to pay. Minimum advance \$50,000. ³ The interest rate will fluctuate with the Prime Rate and is subject to change at any time without notice. These rates can be changed, withdrawn or extended at any time without notice. Residential mortgages are offered by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. ®/™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada.

Cost. Dwindling reserves, price volatility prompt N.S. natural gas study

Dwindling natural gas reserves coupled with price fluctuations has prompted the Nova Scotia government to launch a study on how it can secure a more stable supply for the province.

The study would examine market demand, infrastructure needs and the cost of reversing the flow of natural gas in the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline, which is primarily used to ship gas to the northeastern U.S., Energy Minister Charlie Parker said.

He said it is being driven by a number of factors including market price volatility and a shrinking supply with the gradual winding down of ExxonMobil's Sable offshore project, which began production in 1999.

"There's uncertainty on both," Parker told a news conference Tuesday. "So how can we find that stability, that predictability for Nova Scotia homeowners and businesses?"

Parker said the study would also look at the possibility of establishing natural gas storage facilities as a means of controlling price variations because of increased demand.



Energy Minister Charlie Parker METRO FILE

He said natural gas prices in the province tripled in December because of supply shortages, especially for large industrial-scale users such as hospitals and universities.

Another factor contributing to the supply problem is the ongoing delay in the startup of Calgary-based EnCana's Deep Panuke project.

The development received regulatory approval in 2007 and was initially supposed to go into production by late 2010. However, EnCana says the offshore platform won't be ready to produce until some time in the first half of this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prescription pills seized

Citizen's call leads to drug bust

Two men from Sackville and one from Truro Heights were arrested on drug charges Tuesday afternoon in an impromptu police takedown prompted by a citizen's call.

"It all developed from a Crime Stoppers tip," RCMP Sgt. Al Affleck said, following an incident that saw numerous police cruisers swooping in to surround vehicles in a Truro parking lot. Affleck said as many as 500 prescription pills, believed to be hydromorphone, and cash was seized during the arrests.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Collision

Couple hit by car while walking in reflective vests

RCMP in Tantallon are asking for the public's help as they look for a motorist who struck a couple in their 60s as they were walking along the side of a road while wearing reflective safety vests.

The man and woman were taken to hospital, where the man was treated for a minor head injury.

The collision happened Monday night at 6:42 p.m. on Lakewood Drive near Club Road.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wage fight. Striking radio employees call for Halifax stations boycott

Seven striking radio employees from Saint John, N.B. expanded their fight for fairer wages to their employer's doorstep in Halifax on Tuesday.

The group, made up of six radio announcers and one receptionist, has been unsuccessfully trying to negotiate a collective agreement with Maritime Broadcasting System since June.

Now they want listeners and advertisers of Halifax MBS outlets (FX 101.9 and 89.9 HBS-FM) to boycott the stations until they reach a deal with company owner Robert Pace, who owns 24 radio stations throughout the Maritimes.

"MBS Radio seems determined to dig in its heels and hope we go away," said Gary Stackhouse, Canadian Media Guild president at MBS Radio in Saint John. "What they need to know is that we will not."

The group is arguing the company is in a financial position to justify higher wages across the board. The larger fight, he said, is about preserving local media.

Stackhouse had been making \$30,000 per year with 22 years of experience in the busi-

Cough it up

Gary Stackhouse said the group would fight for as long as it takes to get a fair wage deal.

ness.

Four of the seven strikers make below \$30,000, ranging from \$22,000 to \$27,000.

MBS is offering between \$10.58 and \$12.98 per hour to start; the union is asking for \$12 to \$17.21.

Stackhouse said they have already started successful boycotts at three MBS stations in Saint John.

MBS spokesman Garry Barker said the union's demands are too high, adding the company has offered "a very fair and reasonable 9.2 per cent wage increase over four years, including a \$1,200 signing bonus."

Gerry Whelan, CMG Atlantic region representative, says that it's "scandalous" that three of the seven on strike had made just over minimum wage. **ANDREW RANKIN/METRO**

Accessory after the fact. Man charged in death of Cape Breton woman

More than six years after she went missing, a charge has been laid in connection with the murder of Brett McKinnon.

John Wayne Hynes, 33, is charged with accessory after the fact to murder. Court documents allege that while knowing that Thomas Ted Barrett had murdered McKinnon, Hynes helped Barrett dispose of her body so Barrett could escape detection.

The offence allegedly occurred between June 13, 2006, and Dec. 31, 2006.

No charges against Barrett have been laid in relation to the McKinnon murder. Barrett has also been named as a suspect in court documents in relation to the murder of Laura Jessome last year, but charges have not been laid against him in that case. Barrett is in custody on unrelated matters.

McKinnon, 21, was last seen in early June 2006 and was reported missing on July 13.

Hynes made his first appearance in Sydney provincial court Tuesday on the charge, wearing a dark hoodie and jeans. He said he did not want



John Wayne Hynes
CAPE BRETON REGIONAL POLICE HANDOUT

to be remanded to the Cape Breton Correctional Centre and instead wanted to be sent to Burnside, as the former Glace Bay man now lives in the Halifax area.

"I've been there for four years and I don't want to be down here," Hynes told the court.

"I came down here at 12 o'clock last night, with no methadone, no medication, no nothing."

The Crown is opposing Hynes' release. He was remanded into custody and is next scheduled to appear in court Jan. 30.

CAPE BRETON POST

Apprenticeships

Gov. to launch advisory panel

The Nova Scotia government is assessing its apprenticeship program.

Labour and Advanced Education Minister Marilyn More announced Tuesday that an advisory panel will get advice on how to strengthen the apprenticeship system.

The province says it wants to hear from employers and industry on what they can do to ensure apprentices are ready for good jobs in Nova Scotia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

South Cape Breton

Car chase leads to multiple charges

Police in southern Cape Breton say a 23-year-old motorist from Judique faces charges including stunting after a high-speed chase.

The Mounties say officers clocked the driver travelling at 157 km/h in a 70 zone in the Port Hawkesbury area on Friday. Officers later found the suspect just outside of the town.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tickets on sale Friday

Selena Ryder on five-city tour of the Maritimes

JUNO Award-winning artist Selena Ryder is coming to town.

She is visiting the Maritimes on a five-city tour, including at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium in Halifax on March 2.

Tickets go on sale Friday at noon through the Dalhousie University Arts Centre box office and soniconcerts.com. Tickets are \$34 in advance and \$39 the day of the show.

METRO



JUNO Award-winning singer-songwriter Selena Ryder will perform at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on March 2. **HANDOUT**

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Quebec eyes guidelines for right to die

Suffering. Under new legislation, assisted suicide would not be considered 'suicide'

The Quebec government believes it has found a way to not run afoul of Ottawa after a legal panel recommended that terminally ill patients have the right to die.

Provincial junior health minister Veronique Hivon said Tuesday the panel determined that provinces have the jurisdiction to legislate in matters of health and that the future legislation would clarify how acts to end a life wouldn't be considered suicide.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Canada under the Criminal Code. Julie Di Mambro, a spokeswoman for federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, said Tuesday the government's position remains the same.

"This is a painful and divisive issue that has been thoroughly debated in Parliament," she said. "We respect Parliament's decision."

Background

Canadians have grappled with the right-to-die issue for nearly two decades.

- Tuesday's recommendations follow a landmark report from last March.
- In 1992, assisted suicide hit the national radar when Sue Rodriguez, a B.C. woman, fought all the way to the Supreme Court for the right to kill herself. She did in 1994.



Veronique Hivon THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hivon said the Quebec government can now pass a law with strict guidelines that will respect the wishes of the dying to shorten their suffering and provide doctors with a clear legal framework.

The Quebec panel, which was headed by lawyer Jean-Pierre Menard, said people suffering from an incurable or degenerative illness should be allowed to ask for medical assistance to help them die.

Under the recommendations, patients themselves would have to make the request to a doctor on the basis of unbearable physical or psychological suffering. Two physicians would have to approve the written request.

Hivon said implementation of any new law would be accompanied by a bolstering of Quebec's palliative-care system, which she said she believes is one way to avoid increased requests to use the right-to-die law.

She said a lack of palliative care is one reason many people ask to have their lives shortened.

"For the vast majority of people who are suffering, palliative care remains the best answer," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Apartment for sale: Open concept, close to public transit

Emergency services attend the scene after a derailed train crashed into the side of an apartment building in Saltsjöbaden, outside Stockholm, Tuesday. A woman in her early 20s obtained the keys, stole the train and drove it about 1.6 kilometres to the end station on the railway line, where it jumped off the tracks, careened for about 25 metres and crashed into a three-storey building. She was the only one injured in the incident. The motives of the woman, who worked for a company contracted to carry out cleaning for the train operator, were not immediately clear. JONAS EKSTRÖMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fear of children. Teacher sues school over phobia

A former teacher is suing the U.S. school district where she used to work, saying administrators discriminated against her because she has a rare phobia: a fear of young children.

Maria Walther-Willard, 61, had been teaching Spanish and French to teenagers in Ohio since 1976.

Walther-Willard was transferred to a school with younger students in 2009. She says the kids there triggered her phobia, forcing her to retire.

Her lawsuit says her fear of young children falls under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and that the district violated it by transferring her and not letting her go back to her former school.

Gary Winters, the school

district's attorney, said Walther-Willard was transferred because the French program at her school was being pushed online and that the other school needed a Spanish teacher.

Patrick McGrath, a clinical psychologist and director of the Center for Anxiety and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders near Chicago, said he has treated patients who fear children and that anyone can be afraid of anything.

"A lot of people will look at something someone's afraid of and say, 'There is no rational reason to be afraid of that,'" he said. "But anxiety disorders are emotion-based.... We've had mothers who wouldn't touch their children after they're born." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada vs. U.S. Flu shot helps Americans more

New data suggests that Canadians who got a flu shot this year cut their risk of getting sick enough to require medical care by about half.

That's slightly lower than the estimate that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control released late last week.

In the U.S., the CDC said this year's flu vaccine reduces the risk by 62 per cent overall and by 55 per cent against influenza A viruses.

Dr. Danuta Skowronski, who led the Canadian study, says the cross-border difference relates to the fact that in Canada, most infections this year are caused by the influenza A subtype H3N2.

Skowronski, who is with

the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, says while the protection isn't as high as public health would like, it's still significant.

The Canadian estimate is based on data from several hundred family doctors in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

The U.S. overall figure was brought up by the fact that the vaccine effectiveness estimate for the influenza B component of the vaccine was 70 per cent.

But in Canada the surveillance network hasn't seen enough influenza B cases to generate a reliable effectiveness estimate for it yet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Toronto

Hey students, want some “eloquent phrasing and sophisticated articulate arguments for your critical analysis?” Or “are you tired of wasting time in front of your laptop instead of having fun?” There may be an essay ghostwriter for you.

On Craigslist Toronto, more than 20 ads for essay-writing services were published in one day this week — months from end-of-the-semester crunch time.

One post advertises, “A for your essays.” Another advertises a husband and wife team, both with master’s degrees, who have a combined 35 years of post-secondary essay-writing experience.

One of the ghostwriters — “A for your essays” — agreed to be interviewed. Sam, who declined to give his last name, says he has an MBA.

For as little as...

\$10

Some ads on Craigslist charge just \$10 per page for essays.

“The way I look at it ... I am filling a need in the market. I am writing, and what they do with it is up to themselves,” he wrote in an email to Metro.

Most of his clients are repeat customers, and he’s taken some through both their undergraduate and MBA degrees, he said.

About three-quarters of his clients will hand in his essay verbatim, even though he advises them to make it their own. Sometimes, when they write three essays in a term themselves then hand in one of his as the fourth, the TA will catch on to the difference, and they’ll get caught, he said. “All students want is an A on the essay, no matter how their previous marks have been.”

Sam, like all of the essay writers on Craigslist, says his essays are original, so they won’t be flagged as plagiarism by Turnitin.com.

At this time of year, he’ll



A Metro staffer searches Craigslist ads for essay-writing services. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

get eight to 10 email requests a day, increasing to about 20 in March.

Many of his clients are in business school, since he

advertises he has an MBA, but they come from all disciplines. Some of his best clients are older people taking a distance degree online,

he said.

“Some students give me their online password, and so I do the online course for them,” he said.

Buyer beware

**Easy A?
No way**

As with everything you can buy on Craigslist, it’s buyer beware for purchased essays.

Metro ordered a \$97, custom-written, 1,000-word essay from AcademicWritingBrokers.com, which advertises on Craigslist Toronto. As promised, it arrived within 24 hours and passed a check on Turnitin.com. The topic, “Is William Lyon Mackenzie King an idealist or opportunist?” was from Dan Azoulay’s Twentieth-Century Canada history class at York University.

“It’s not a very good essay,” said Azoulay of the finished product. “It just doesn’t answer the essay question.”

The essay also has grammar issues, rambles without structure and doesn’t come up with a thesis on Mackenzie King.

Researcher may have sparked a fishy friendship



During a recent study by a University of Windsor researcher, a pair of yellow perch became inseparable, leading some to wonder just how social fish are. PUBLIC DOMAIN/U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

While testing a new method for tracking fish, a University of Windsor researcher may have inadvertently played matchmaker to a pair of yellow perch.

Aaron Fisk and his team at the Great Lakes Institute tagged the fish and released them into ponds near Harrow, Ont., last fall. The tags sent data to six state-of-the-art receivers, recording the fishes’ movement every few seconds.

The new, more granular data will be invaluable to Fisk’s research but it also revealed something unexpected.

Salmon got game

“Males will often defend nests and try different things to attract females.”

University of Windsor researcher Aaron Fisk on the social tendencies of salmon.

While most of the tagged fish “did their own thing,” Fisk was surprised to see two move in tandem. The two perch were so inseparable that some analysts asked whether one fish had simply eaten the other.

“We had two fish that spent a lot of time together, but what it was, we don’t know,” Fisk

said.

Had the perch forged a fishy friendship, or maybe even an aquatic attraction?

“I don’t know the sex of this fish, so we didn’t follow up on that,” said Fisk.

Although the subject falls outside his purview, Fisk said fish have far richer social lives

than they’ve given credit for.

“Salmon, for example, have very specific behaviours around reproduction and spawning,” he said.

After the first two weeks, Fisk’s team added largemouth bass to the ponds to see if the perch’s behaviour changed when predators were introduced. He’s yet to analyze the data, so Fisk doesn’t know if the piscine pals’ relationship was cut short by tragedy.

“They were bigger perch, so I don’t think they were going to be eaten,” he said.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO ONLINE

my goals will be fulfilled and
nothing will get in my way...

Divisive restrictions. Obama set to present gun violence proposals

President Barack Obama will reveal the details of how the U.S. will address gun violence on Wednesday, the White House said Tuesday, while New York passed the toughest gun-control law in the nation and dared other states to do the same.

The Obama administration has been moving quickly on the issue before the shock fades over last month's school shooting in Connecticut, which Obama has called the worst day of his presidency.

The White House said Obama would appear Wednesday with children who wrote letters to him after the shooting — a clear attempt to appeal to the public as opposition grows among pro-gun groups and Americans who fear their weapons will be taken away. The U.S. has the highest rate of gun ownership of any country in the world.

Obama has acknowledged a tough fight ahead in a deeply divided Congress, whose support would be needed to pass the most sweeping changes under consideration, including a ban on assault weapons, limits on high-capacity am-



Barack Obama THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

munition magazines like the ones used in the Connecticut shooting and background checks for anyone seeking to purchase a gun. The gun in last month's shooting was legally purchased.

Obama has said lawmakers will have to "examine their own conscience." But the gun issue will have to compete for Congress' time in coming weeks with several looming fiscal issues, and Republican leaders have said action on guns will have to wait.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged subway pusher

Victim 'rolled like a bowling ball,' suspect claims

Homeless suspect Naeem Davis, charged with killing a stranger by pushing him into the path of a New York City subway train, told investigators his victim "rolled like a bowling ball" after he landed on the tracks, according to court papers. He also wrote that he was to blame and "shouldn't have let this happen," the document says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cannibalism case

N.Y.C. officer denied bail

A federal appeals court denied bail Tuesday for a New York City police officer charged with conspiring to rape, kill and eat women after a judge cited evidence that the case wasn't built on a fantasy.

The three-judge panel agreed with three lower-court judges that Gilberto Valle should remain imprisoned until his trial, which was postponed until next month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convicted murderer will get his death wish

'Severely disturbed.'
Killer's lawyers claim his mental illness is forcing him to enlist the government's help to end his life

When Robert Gleason Jr. walks into Virginia's death chamber Wednesday night and is strapped into the rarely used electric chair, it will mark the end of a twisted quest to speed up his own death.

Gleason says it's not because he wants to die, but rather because he knows he will kill again if he's not executed. He was already serving life in prison when he killed his cellmate then vowed to continue killing unless he was put to death.

When the system wasn't moving fast enough, he strangled another inmate and warned that the body count would rise if they didn't heed his warnings. Gleason waived his appeals, and he remains in a legal battle with his former attorneys as they file last-minute appeals to try to save his life against his wishes.

"Why prolong it? The end result's gonna be the same," Gleason said in one of numerous interviews he's given to The Associated Press over three years. "The death part don't bother me. This has been a long time coming. It's called karma."

Gleason is scheduled to die at 9 p.m. Wednesday at Greensville Correctional Center. Condemned Virginia inmates can choose between lethal injection and electrocution, and Gleason is the first inmate to choose electrocution since 2010.

Attorneys who continue trying to intervene on his be-



Virginia inmate Robert Gleason Jr.
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Relentless violence

- Deputies had to use a stun gun on Gleason during a violent outburst in court in 2008 before he pleaded guilty to a shooting death that sent him to prison for life.
- A year later he got so frustrated when prison officials wouldn't move his mentally disturbed cellmate, Harvey Watson Jr., that Gleason hog-tied, beat and strangled the older man.
- While awaiting sentencing at a high-security prison that is reserved for Virginia's worst inmates, Gleason strangled 26-year-old Aaron Cooper.
- Gleason claims he's different from the other men on Virginia's death row because he only kills criminals.

half claim Gleason is severely disturbed. They argue his competency has deteriorated over the year he's been in isolation on death row, and that he suffers from extreme paranoia, delusional thinking, severe anxiety and other mental afflictions that leave him with "a nearly overwhelming urge to end his own life."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Robert Gleason Jr. is scheduled to die at 9 p.m. Wednesday at Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, Va. Gleason is the first Virginia inmate since 2010 to select the electric chair as his method of execution.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Social media. Facebook unveils 'graph search'

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg introduced a new search feature on Tuesday in the company's first staged event at its Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters since its May initial public offering.

Called "graph search," the new service lets users search their social connections for information about people, interests, photos and places. It'll help users who, for instance, want to scroll through all the photos their friends have taken in Paris or search for the favourite TV shows of all their friends who happen to be doctors.

Until now, Facebook users were unable to search for friends who live in a certain town or like a particular movie. With the new feature, people can search for friends who, say, live in Boston who also like

Competitive move

- Graph search escalates an already fierce duel between Google and Facebook. Although Facebook isn't trying to fetch information across the web like Google does, it's clearly trying to divert traffic and ad spending from its rival.

Zero Dark Thirty.

Zuckerberg says the search feature is "privacy aware," which means users can only search for content that has been shared with them.

It will likely take more than a year for it to be available to all of Facebook's more than one billion users. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Montreal


Cirque du Soleil calls meeting amid layoff reports


The world-renowned Cirque du Soleil will meet with staff on Wednesday


amid reports that up to 600 people could be laid off. Renée-Claude Ménard, Cirque's senior director of public relations, would not comment on layoff speculation until the staff meeting. Cirque employs about 5,000 people worldwide. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute

 **DOLLAR**
101.62¢
(-0.03¢)

 **TSX**
12,641.97 (+38.89)

 **OIL**
\$93.28 US (-86¢)

 **GOLD**
\$1,683.90 US (+\$14.50)

Natural gas: \$3.46 US (+8¢)
Dow Jones: 13,534.89 (+27.57)

Music retailing. While HMV's British operations sink, HMV Canada swims

As British music and entertainment retailer HMV tries to salvage any viable parts of its business, the Canadian offshoot of the famous brand says it's far from the financial strife of its former owner.

The two companies parted ways just over a year ago, when British-based parent HMV Group PLC sold off the Canadian stores to private equity firm Hilco for \$3.2 million. That means while HMV's future in the U.K. looks dim, HMV Canada's domestic stores are still

bustling with traffic — and in some cases even growing — as customers snap up movies and music.

"We've gone after a significantly different business model (than the U.K. stores)," said HMV Canada president Nick Williams. The change in direction appears to have saved HMV Canada from the immediate fate of its former owner, which admitted defeat on Tuesday after more than 90 years in business, suspending trading in its shares. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Wal-Mart pledges to hire more than 100K veterans

Patriotic push. Retailer waves U.S. flag as it tries to rebound from recent blows to reputation

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer and the biggest U.S. private employer, with 1.4 million workers, said Tuesday it is rolling out a three-part plan to help jump-start America's sluggish economy.

The plan includes hiring more than 100,000 army veterans in the next five years, spending \$50 billion US to buy more American-made merchandise in the next 10 years and helping its part-time workers move into full-time positions sooner.

The move comes as Wal-Mart attempts to rebound from blows to its reputation in recent months from an alleged bribery scandal in Mexico and a deadly fire in November at a Bangladesh factory that supplies clothes to the company. Wal-Mart, which often has been criticized for offering low-paying jobs and not buying more from U.S. manufacturers,



A woman approaches a Walmart store in Valley Stream, N.Y., in this 2011 photo. The retailer said it plans to hire every U.S. veteran who wants a job and has been honourably discharged in the first 12 months of active duty. GETTY IMAGES FILE

said its plan will highlight the career opportunities in the retail industry.

"We've developed a national paralysis that's driven by all of us waiting for someone else to do something," Bill Simon, president and CEO of Wal-Mart's U.S. business, said at an

annual retail industry convention in New York. "The beauty of the private sector is that we don't have to win an election, convince Congress or pass a bill to do what we think is right. We can simply move forward, doing what we know is right."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

10.8%

The unemployment rate for U.S. veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan stood at 10.8 per cent in December, versus the overall unemployment rate of 7.8 per cent.

Tech trends. PCs continue to trump smaller devices on usage time, report says

People will still spend more time on personal computers in 2013 than they will on tablets and smartphones, despite the popularity of these smaller devices, says a new tech-trends report.

More than 80 per cent of the data going across the Internet this year will continue to come from laptop and desktop personal computers, the Deloitte Canada 2013 trends report said.

Why? "People like big screens," said Duncan Stewart,

Quoted

"People like big screens."

Duncan Stewart, director of research for technology, media and telecom at Deloitte

art, director of research for technology, media and telecom at Deloitte in Toronto.

"They watch a two-hour movie, they play a half-hour game. They check Facebook for a while. The session length tends to be much longer."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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THE SWEETNESS OF A GOOD BOOK



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

When you're a reader, there's nothing like finding a new series.

It's even better when, by the time you stumble upon it, there is already a bunch written that you can plow through with relish.

That's what happened with *A Song of Ice and Fire* (Game of Thrones), George R.R. Martin's wildly fascinating sword-and-sorcery epic. I got to it as Volume 3, *A Storm of Swords*, was released. As each book is well over 1,000 pages, I had at least three weeks of uninterrupted delight.

But then, I had to wait along with all the other geeks for Martin to continue the agonizingly slow process of churning out Nos. 4 and 5. Still to come, Nos. 6 and 7, and who knows when they'll be ready? Martin has apparently never met a book tour, fantasy conference or editing project he can resist. With any luck, we'll both be around for *The End*, but the odds are growing increasingly long ... or is that short?

About the author

He retired to Kelowna, B.C., where he expected to go gently, etc., when a cataclysmic 2003 forest fire that nearly engulfed his house caused him to re-examine his scorched priorities and start writing like an 11-year-old girl.

Bottom of the Pie, currently culminating in Volume 4, *I Am Half-Sick of Shadows*, are good.

Better than good.

Even crazier? They are written by a 74-year-old Canadian man, Alan Bradley, originally from Cobourg, Ont., who spent 25 years as a director of TV engineering at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He retired to Kelowna, B.C., where he expected to go gently, etc., when a cataclysmic 2003 forest fire that nearly engulfed his house caused him to re-examine his scorched priorities and start writing like an 11-year-old girl.

He'd never even been to England until 2007, when he went to pick up the first of Flavia's multitude of awards, but that didn't prevent him from nailing the Agatha Christie English-village murder mystery.

Of course, there aren't a lot of 74-year-old men who can write like an 11-year-old girl, but Bradley seems to have little trouble channelling his inner Flavia, who is by turns funny, solemn, wise, petulant, insightful, kind and, above all, curious. The kind of curious that killed the cat, essential in a murder mystery.

Hermione Granger meets Sherlock Holmes.

The good news gets even better. Unlike George R.R. Martin, Bradley has discipline and reliably finishes one of his novels a year. The next one is due, according to Amazon, in two weeks. Another volume in the series of 10 (say it ain't so!) arrives in early 2014.

Oh, and Hollywood director Sam Mendes has bought the TV rights, so stay tuned ...



Read an excerpt from the book *Speaking from Among the Bones* at metronews.ca.



Author Alan Bradley HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hands up if you're the cutest!



KATHERINE FENG/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT

High five!

Newborn panda says hello to world

It appears this baby panda was born for the limelight as he smiles and waves adorably in front of the camera. The 37-day-old cub seemed to enjoy his photo shoot after he was weighed, measured and fed by medics. This charming image was taken at Wolong National Nature Reserve's giant panda conservation centre in Sichuan, China. **METRO**

Photographer's view



"I think the cubs start looking cute at about four weeks when they are unmistakably baby pandas. At that age, they are roly-poly balls of black and white."

Dr. Katherine Feng, veterinarian/photographer

Fancy dress for good

Staff wear panda costumes

Wolong made news in 2010 after staff decided to don furry panda costumes.

"We came up with the idea because captive pandas are too familiar with people. But by rearing them using panda suits, the baby panda would grow up never seeing any people," researcher Huang Yan said.

This way, Yan hopes, pandas who will return to the wild won't be too dependent on humans. **METRO**



Twitter

@mikebiggar:

Congrats to all the fantastic East Coast artists nominated for 2013 #ECMA Awards @EastCoastMusic See you in March in #Halifax!

@KMatheson12:

With the parking tickets I've gotten these past 5 years, Halifax must be close to building a 3rd bridge.

@tinacalpo:

The ongoing in-and-outs of the #halifax right-of-way debate. There should be a kung-fu class

for this. ;)

@HenryWhitfield:

Cherry predicts that it will be London and Halifax in the finals of the Memorial Cup, that would be a dandy eh? #CHL #Knights #Mooseheads

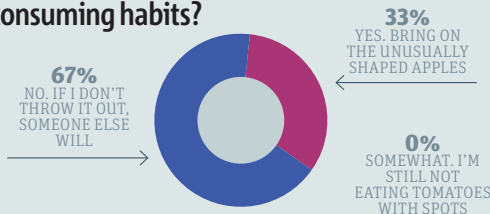
@sonician:

Decided to walk to work today instead of the bus. Nice walk from the North End to Downtown #Halifax



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Will a new report saying up to half of the world's food is wasted change your consuming habits?



In Focus

Taking a Stand on drug movies



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

This weekend Arnold Schwarzenegger takes on his first lead role in 10 years. In the *Last Stand* he's Sheriff Ray Owens, a rootin', tootin' small town lawman who battles a Mexican drug cartel.

It's the first time Arnold has fought drug lords, but Hollywood often looks to the cartels for a supply of bad guys.

As recently as last year Oliver Stone cast Salma Hayek as the ruthless cartel leader in *Savages*, aided and abetted by Benicio Del Toro as her henchman.

There are also rumours that *Scarface*, the legendarily violent Al Pacino movie about a Cuban immigrant who takes over the south Florida drug trade, is about to be remade and relocated to the world of Mexican drug cartels.

The Johnny Depp movie *Blow* was actually renamed *Cartel* in some markets. Based on the book *Blow: How a Small Town Boy Made \$100 Million with the Medellín Cocaine Cartel and Lost It All*, Depp plays George Jung, the man who launched the American cocaine market in the 1970s.

Finally, Colombian is another cartel revenge flick. Zoe Saldana is Catalaya Restrepo, who as a 10-year-old saw her parents killed by a Bogota drug lord.

Instead of calling the police she instead becomes an assassin who vows to avenge her family's deaths. Her journey starts with 10 words: "I want to be a killer. Can you help me?"



Mama is an upcoming horror film directed by Andres Muschietti starring Jessica Chastain. HANDOUT

Childhood trauma at root of Del Toro's Mama

Interview. Producer talks about why his films are so dark, and turning a short film into a full-length Hollywood horror

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

When I ask Guillermo Del Toro why his films often feature kids as main characters his answer is upfront, open and a little surprising.

"I had a horrible childhood, emotionally," says the director of *The Devil's Backbone* and *Pan's Labyrinth*. "I was not a child who was beaten or locked in a closet, but I really have a very intense

Quote

"There is a filmmaker in that short. Very often you see shorts that are glossy but have very little to say."

Guillermo Del Toro
Talking about the film that inspired *Mama*.

relationship with the horror of Catholic guilt and the dogma. My grandmother was like Piper Laurie in *Carrie*. I was like a chubby version of *Carrie*. It was very difficult for me to get over that.

"I jokingly say I spent 40 years trying to recuperate from the first eight, but to a degree it is true. I really suffered intensely in the first 10 years of my life. I would cry

at the concept of burning in hell, or the concept of purgatory and original sin. Mexican Catholicism is very, very brutal and very, very gory. That all affected me."

Mama, his latest production effort, is a spooky tale of two abandoned girls raised by a supernatural nanny. Del Toro came to the story after seeing a three-minute short film by director Andrés Muschietti.

"The short is brilliant," he says. "Atmospheric and creepy. You can see a story-telling will. You can see a voice. There is a filmmaker in that short."

"Very often you see shorts that are glossy but have very little to say. Or they're really intense and interesting but they are badly done. But this short had the perfect balance

of form, function and story."

Muschietti is just the latest director to be discovered and mentored by Del Toro, who himself was given a helping hand by people like James Cameron.

"I've been very, very blessed by finding good people who believed in me at the right time. Obviously I try and pay it forward. Right now I'm 48-years-old and have been doing this for 30-something years, 20 directing. I've been able to produce close to 20 movies between Mexico and America and Spain and I would say in 99 per cent of the cases it has been really, really beautiful. A couple of cases it has been hard or the movie has been disappointing but *Mama* is one of the good ones I am really proud of."

2 SCENE

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Kristen Stewart

Stewart joins Pattinson after awards ceremony

Kristen Stewart may not have joined Robert Pattinson for the Golden Globes ceremony itself, but when she met up with him at an after-party at the Soho House, the *On the Road* actress wouldn't leave his side, according to *Us Weekly*. "They hung out

and stayed close for over an hour," a source says of Pattinson and Stewart, who arrived in a less than red carpet-ready look of jeans and a backward hat. The pair then left with a group of friends including Sienna Miller for another party.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Spears' father arranged split with ex-fiancé?

Britney Spears reportedly had nothing to do with her breakup with ex-fiancé Jason Truick, as the split was orchestrated by Truick and Spears' father, Jamie Spears, who still has legal control of her personal life and finances, according to Radar Online.

"It really wasn't Britney's decision to announce the split last week, it was Jamie who made the call," a source says. "Jason wanted out, and in the

fragile state that Britney is in, it's not like he could have a rational conversation with her about it, so it was really between him and Jamie. Britney was left out of everything and really didn't even know what was going on."

The biggest surprise, though, is exactly how in the dark Spears apparently is about her personal life.

"Jason and Jamie wanted to make sure that Britney didn't lose it, so they had to water things down for her a bit," the source says. "She still hasn't exactly grasped yet that the relationship is totally over."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper

Couple's romance only on screen, says Cooper

Oscar nominees Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence fall for each other in *Silver Linings Playbook*, but Cooper wants to quash any rumours of the recently single stars dating in real life. "I love her to death. She's amazing, but no," Cooper tells *Entertainment Tonight*

about the prospect of him and Lawrence together. "No, no, no, no, no. Not even close. First of all, I could be her father. No, I'm kidding. But no, not even close." Lawrence, for her part, isn't offended, responding to his statement with, "True. I agree. I concur."

Twitter



@SteveCarell

Apparently, once you have appeared on television, you are qualified to be a fashion designer.



@ParisJackson

i should probably start that biology homework right about now, aye?



@kirstiealley

I think I accidentally murdered my pet spider...I stepped on a spider in the hallway ...my under the cabinet spider is MIA



@Sethrogen

I have a very shocking admission to make... I've been doping.



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Lost and Lord of the Rings star Dominic Monaghan gets wild this year on OLN's new series Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan, which premieres Monday. Metro picked Monaghan's brain on his favourite escapes.

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca



MTKOPONE/Flickr

The rainforests of Ecuador

"Ecuador is a pretty beautiful part of the world, but I quickly get out of any cities, like Quito and make a full-day journey into the jungle, which is a drive to a boat, then a boat to a car, then a car to another boat and then finally ending up at this place called the Tiputini Research Centre, which is one of the places I based myself out of when I was making Wild Things. It's an extremely remote, extremely isolated research centre in the middle of the rainforest. It doesn't even appear on the map. If you want to experience what it's like to be out in the middle of nowhere surrounded by one of the most wild and unforgiving natural environments in the world, that's a pretty good kicking off place."

5 spots that drive Dominic Monaghan wild



New Zealand's south islands

"Some of my happiest times travelling around have been exploring the south islands of New Zealand. New Zealand is obviously a very modernized country but the south islands have some pockets that have kept their natural beauty. My favourite way to experience that is to just rent a car and take a ferry from Picton on the southern point of the north island and get dropped off at the northern point of the south island and then just drive down to Queenstown over the coast for maybe three or four days, stopping in different places. It's a wild and blustery kind of place. You can see a lot of the places where we filmed sequences in Lord of the Rings. New Zealand is called the land of the long white cloud. It's just a really beautiful place to go to."



Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

"I really like Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. It's a very, very busy, crazy city with a lot of influences from many parts of the world. The French influence can be felt and Thailand and Cambodia have a bit of an influence here. It's just one of those cities where it gets busier and busier as the night gets on. Once the sun goes down the city really comes to life with a lot of noise and a lot of really interesting food you can buy on the street and friendly people and cool things to check out. There's a lot of people watching, going to squares and seeing some of the craziness."



The islands of Thailand

"Some of the islands up the coast of Thailand are pretty beautiful, like Ko Tao and Ko Samui. I really like going to a place called Krabi. They are pretty experienced with stuff like scuba diving and snorkelling and any kind of water activity you might want to do. There are amazing people in Thailand, really fantastic food, it's a great escape. I had some of the best food of my life and they're football crazy — they like soccer like I do. Manchester United games are a big deal for them in the same way they're a big deal for me."

GETTY IMAGES



ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED

Berlin

"I go to Berlin a lot. It's not the most exotic of locations in the world in terms of jungles and crazy animals, but I was born in Berlin. It's a really interesting city, great architecture. It's got nice food. German food is a little heavy, but it's very tasty. They also do a pretty good line in beer and Berlin is one of those cities that feels like it's being dictated to by the young. The younger people are making the decisions there. There's a great culture of street art and graffiti, the museums are really interesting, there's great style on the street, there's great bars and cool music."

3 LIFE

Jasper heats up for annual winter festival

Jumping January. Two-week event has mountain town hosting outdoor adventures, contests and a chili cook-off

It's like a big small-town party in the mountains.

Jasper in January is an annual festival scheduled smack-dab in the middle of winter for those brave enough to celebrate the cold instead of running off to the beaches of Mexico.

"We don't all have to hibernate throughout the winter," says Mary Darling, a spokeswoman with Tourism Jasper. "There's still things you can do."

Family fun, evening entertainment and outdoor adventures — many of them free — take place daily over two weeks, bringing the town of 5,000 to nearly double its size.

Picture it: making gooey s'mores over an outdoor fire,

strapping on snowshoes surrounded by majestic mountains, throwing snowballs inside a pub while sipping a pint of beer, even sporting a Speedo while leaping into an icy lake.

"It's rejuvenating," says Peter Scott, a local electrician who plans to participate in his fourth Polar Bear Dip this Sunday.

Nestled in the Rocky Mountains, Jasper is about a 3 1/2-hour drive west of Edmonton. To many, it's considered Banff's little sister. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. While Banff is crowded and commercial, Jasper is quiet and laid-back.

History shows Jasper was a place where people lived before it became a travel destination. It was settled as a fur trading post, then designated a national park in 1907.

The addition of hotels, spas and five-star restaurants hasn't dampened its cosy and comfortable feel. And Jasper in January captures that allure, right from

If you go...

- **Jasper in January.** Event runs through Jan. 27.
- **Deals.** Most hotels are offering hot deals during the festival and Marmot Basin is also giving discounts on its ski lift tickets.
- **For more information.** Including a full calendar of events, check out jasperinjanuary.com.

ice skating on a frozen pond to noshing on some home-made chili.

In fact, the chili cook-off this Friday night is the only event that has carried on each year since the festival started 24 years ago. Would-be chefs team up and mix pots of chili at the local activity centre, creating more than a dozen flavours that anyone can buy and sample.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A chili cook-off has been a staple of Jasper in January for 24 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Travel tips

Considering a cruise?



LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

Worried you may never find the ship and itinerary that are right for you? Here's your guide to discovering that perfect match. Remember, size matters. The large 2,000 plus passenger ships have numerous options for different budgets versus their smaller counterparts. They also tend to offer more amenities, services and activities, both on and off the ship. However, be prepared for the crowds and know that the larger vessels have more restrictions on which ports they are able to visit. Are you there for a good time or a long time? Caribbean cruises, especially the shorter itineraries, attract sun seekers primarily there to experience all the fun a ship has to offer. Longer trips to more exotic overseas locales tend to attract culture vultures who are more interested in exploring the destination. If the higher prices of an Asian or European cruise is off-putting consider booking an itinerary



Choose your cruise line wisely. LOSTAJV/FlickR

during the off-peak season. The Mediterranean in winter means lower prices and cheaper air fares.

Know the on-board culture and pick a cruise line that suits your style. Royal Caribbean targets active travellers with on board basketball courts, rock climbing walls and zip lines. Disney's teen clubs, family themed shows and nurseries are great for family fun. Staterooms that can sleep families of five are an added bonus. Crystal Cruises is a high-end experience; not as formal as Cunard but with the same first-class service. Expect to pay for it. If you are looking for Vegas on the waves, check out Carnival Cruise Lines. It all comes down to money. Costs can vary widely, but plan on at

least \$150 per person per day including taxes. Most cruises include accommodation, meals, onboard activities (excluding casino and spa) and in a few cases, alcohol. Shore excursions are almost always extra and expensive. Don't be afraid to explore a port on your own or book a tour in advance through a local operator. The increasingly popular river cruises are great for those interested in breaking away from the masses. Passengers disembark in the heart of small towns dotting the waterways of Europe and Asia versus on to the "tarmac" of a cruise ship terminal. When booking, ask lots of questions and choose wisely. It could be the beginning of a great relationship.



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Buttermilk makes the move from breakfast table side to dinner all-star

First, a buttermilk primer. As its name suggests, buttermilk is the tangy milk-like liquid left behind when cultured cream is churned to make butter.

At least that's how they made it in the old days. Today, it's usually commercially produced by adding cultures

(think the bacteria that produces yogurt) to low- or no-fat milk.

We've all had buttermilk pancakes and waffles, but most people don't realize just how versatile an ingredient buttermilk is. And it belongs on the dinner table as much as at breakfast.

Let's start with buttermilk's signature tang. It's

Drink of the Week

Brrberry Tea

There is nothing quite like a hot cup of tea to keep the winter blues away.

And when you add three types of alcohol to the mix, you have a whole new type of tea.

- .5 oz brandy
- .5 oz amaretto
- .5 oz triple sec
- Chai tea
- Splash orange juice
- Garnish orange wheel
- Garnish cinnamon stick

Add liquor, liqueurs, juice and tea bag to glass. Add hot water. Garnish with cinnamon stick and stir. Add orange wheel garnish.

PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY OF FIRKIN PUBS, FIRKIN-PUBS.COM



Buttermilk-Soaked Pork Cutlet Sandwiches



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tangy because it's acidic, and acidic ingredients make for great marinades. Give chicken, pork or turkey a buttermilk bath and you'll get especially tender, flavorful meat. Before you add the meat, just whisk in whatever seasonings you want. That's how it's used in these Buttermilk-Soaked Pork Cutlet Sandwiches.

And that same tang turns out killer mashed potatoes. Use it in place of regular milk, then mash away. Ditto for sweet potatoes.

Lastly, next time you're making vinaigrette for your salad or roasted vegetables, add buttermilk for rich, luxurious flavour.

Try a blend of olive oil, buttermilk, lemon juice,

strawberry jam, salt and black pepper.

1. Cut the tenderloin crosswise into thin rounds, each about 1/4 inch thick. One at a time, set each round between sheets of plastic wrap and pound evenly thin using a meat mallet or rolling pin.

2. In medium bowl, whisk together the buttermilk, 1 tablespoon of the red curry paste and salt. Add the pork and ensure it is evenly covered by the liquid. Refrigerate this for at least 1 hour and up to 8 hours.

3. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking

spray.

4. In a wide, shallow bowl, mix the breadcrumbs and pepper. Remove the pork cutlets from the marinade. Dredge each piece through the breadcrumbs, patting them on as needed to coat evenly. Arrange pork cutlets on prepared baking sheet.

5. Bake 10 minutes, or until

cooked through.

6. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, whisk together the remaining 1 teaspoon of red curry paste, the mayonnaise and vinegar. Slather a quarter of the mixture over the bottom half of each burger roll. Top with fresh lettuce and sliced tomato, then 1 or 2 pork cutlets. Serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1-lb pork tenderloin
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp Thai red curry paste, divided
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 2 cups panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp cider vinegar
- 4 burger rolls
- Boston or other leafy lettuce
- 1 large tomato, sliced

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Ever wondered what it's actually like to work day in and day out as a nurse? Or if they ever bump into McDreamy?

For those who are on their way to a career in nursing, we've got the skinny on what it's like to be a young nurse from two women who are working hard to keep their communities healthy.

Erin Okanik is a nurse at Kitchener-Waterloo's Grand River Hospital, where she has been working as a registered

nurse since graduating from Western University in 2009. As if being a busy full-time emergency room nurse wasn't enough, she is also currently completing her master's degree.

Abigail Keeso graduated from Ryerson University in 2012, and has since been working as a registered nurse in the infectious diseases department at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. When she's not wielding a stethoscope, Abigail writes about health and wellness. You can see what she's up to on Twitter.

What is a typical day like for you?

Okanik: I work in the ER and there is no such thing as a typical day! Depending on which area of the department I am assigned to, I could be helping to set and cast broken bones, or I could be the trauma nurse, working with a team of doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists



The ability to smile is one of the keys to a successful nursing career. iStock

or paramedics to resuscitate a patient in cardiac arrest.

The ER I work in sees all types of patients — from children to geriatric. The youngest patient I have ever cared for was 45 minutes old and the oldest was 105 years old. You need

to be prepared for everything because you can never predict what might come through the doors.

Keeso: Depending on how sick my patients are, I can have anywhere from one to three

patients. I go through my patients' care plans to get an understanding of their diagnosis and the plan of care. After I have briefed myself, I then sit down with the nurse from the previous shift so he or she can tell me what has happened over the last 12 hours. Then, I hit the floor running, introducing myself to my patients and their families, building those relationship, checking vital signs, blood work, dressing changes, specimen collection, hanging IV solutions, giving medications, etc.

Throughout the shift I work and consult with a large interdisciplinary team (including medical doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, respiratory therapists, registered dietitians, etc.). While these people are in and out throughout the day, I am with the patients all day, and I am responsible for making sure orders are implemented and advocating for my

patients' needs.

Is there anything you wish you had known when you were still a nursing student?

Okanik: That nursing is NOTHING like those medical TV shows that I was always watching (ahem, Grey's Anatomy). Nursing in the real world can be physically and emotionally exhausting, dirty and sometimes tedious. Also, I have yet to meet a doctor who looks like McDreamy!

Keeso: One thing that sticks out is how much I learn every single day on the job. You certainly do not come out of nursing school ready to be an excellent nurse. With advances in medicine, drugs, technology and research, things are constantly changing.

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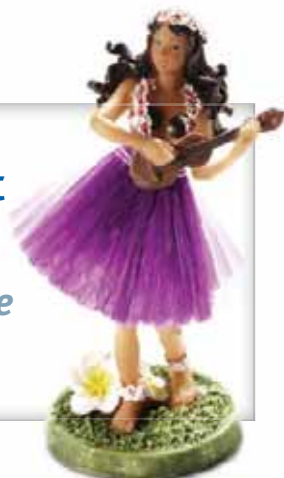


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Prospects show off their skills at Metro Centre

Russian defencemen Nikita Zadorov of the Ontario Hockey League's London Knights participates in ice skills testing with Team Orr on Tuesday at the Halifax Metro Centre to get ready for the CHL Top Prospects game, which happens Wednesday night. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Jones, MacKinnon excited to face off

CHL Top Prospects game. American blue-liner says he's extra motivated by the nationally-televised matchup



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

Seth Jones could only downplay his excitement of going head to head against Nathan MacKinnon for so long.

The pair is projected to go one and two at the upcoming NHL entry draft this summer. Whose name will be called first is less certain. But the towering defenceman and captain for Team Orr said he's extra motivated for Wednesday's CHL Top Prospects game, where he'll face off against Team Cherry and their captain MacKinnon as well as the

other Halifax Mooseheads star Jonathan Drouin.

"Of course I'm motivated," Jones said following a practice at the Metro Centre on Monday night. "Just given the fact they're projected right along there with you. I know some people are trying to portray us as a horse race but I'm not looking at it like that."

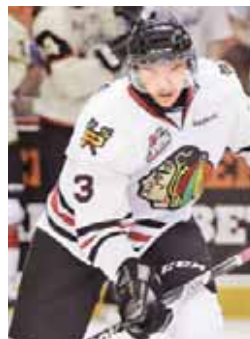
But there appears to be no bad blood amongst the three.

"They are both good players and are really skilled with the puck," Jones said. "It's about trying to take away their time and space as much as possible. Even if you do that, they still make plays and are dangerous."

Playing in Halifax, with a Metro Centre crowd behind MacKinnon and Drouin, will serve as more motivation for him, too.

"It will be a great game and great atmosphere."

MacKinnon and Jones



Seth Jones of the Portland Winterhawks during practice Monday.

DEVAAN INGRAHAM/FOR METRO



Nathan MacKinnon of the Halifax Mooseheads.

DEVAAN INGRAHAM/FOR METRO

are good friends, but as of Monday night Jones said the pair hadn't spoken since he helped lead the U.S. to a 5-1 semifinal win over Canada at the World Junior Hockey Championship.

While MacKinnon said that loss still lingers, he insists Wednesday's matchup isn't about redemption.

"It wasn't Seth versus Canada," said MacKinnon. "Obviously that loss still hurts, the bronze medal game hurts."

"He played every aspect of the game well: the power

play, PK, five-on-five. He really helped U.S. win a couple close games."

MacKinnon said he's focused on bringing his A-game to Wednesday's 8 p.m. contest, which is being carried live on Sportsnet.

While Drouin also realizes the importance of Wednesday's game in terms of the draft, he said he's not about to get too excited.

"There are scouts and GMs and an opportunity to increase your draft stock, but I just want (to) help Team Cherry win," Drouin said.

NHL Central Scouting

Mooseheads ranked Nos. 2, 3 in draft rankings

NHL Central Scouting released its mid-term rankings on Tuesday, with Nathan MacKinnon coming in at No. 2 behind Seth Jones for the top draft-eligible North American skater for the 2013 draft.

Jones, a six-foot-three, 208-pound defenceman from the Portland Winterhawks of the Western Hockey League, and MacKinnon have been considered the two contenders for the first overall pick in the draft since the season began.

MacKinnon's teammate and linemate with the Mooseheads, Jonathan Drouin, has come in at No. 3.

"Both (MacKinnon and Jones) impact the game in the position they play, but the one difference is that Seth plays the game well in all three zones," Director of Central Scouting Dan Marr said on NHL.com. "That's not to say Nathan doesn't. Nathan excels in the offensive zone and he's going to be a prolific scorer. He's one heck of a competitor."

If MacKinnon and Drouin get drafted in the top-five, they would be the first duo to do so from the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League since Sylvain Turgeon and Pat LaFontaine went second and third respectively in 1983.

"Personally, I feel Nathan benefits from having Jon as a linemate just as much as Jon does having Nathan," Central Scouting's Chris Bordeleau said on NHL.com. "Drouin is unbelievable in my eyes. He's smart and can read the play so well."

As far as North American goaltenders go, Zach Fucale of the Mooseheads is ranked No. 1. Fucale is 28-4-2 with a 2.50 goals-against average and .896 save percentage this season.

"Zach is an excellent positional style goalie with great stance and balance," Central Scouting's Al Jensen said on NHL.com. **PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO**

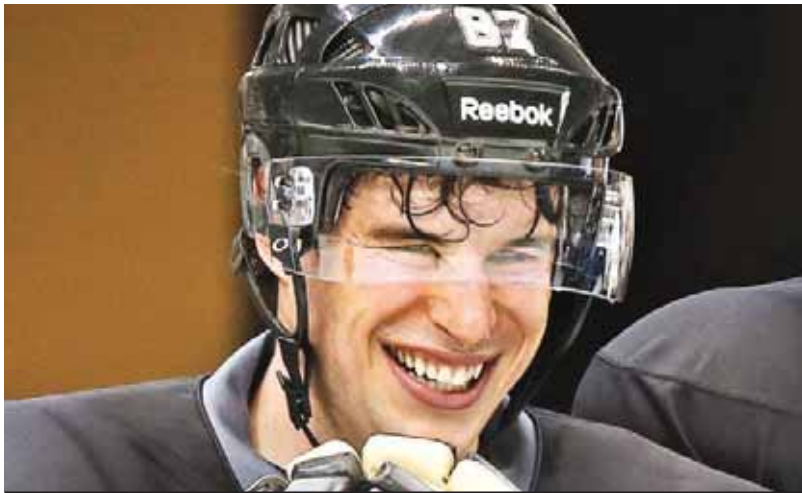


Jonathan Drouin
METRO

Quoted

"I'm going to do the things that got me here and try to continue that Wednesday night."

Halifax Mooseheads forward Nathan MacKinnon



Penguins star Sidney Crosby says the concussion-like symptoms that plagued him for most of the last two seasons have all but vanished. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clear-headed Crosby turns focus to game

NHL. With head injuries in past, Penguins superstar says he's intent on making amends for end to last season

The headaches are gone. Finally. So are the doubts, the ones Sidney Crosby couldn't outrun as he rehabilitated from concussion-like symptoms that robbed hockey's best player from two years in the middle of his prime.

It's no fun waking up the morning after a punishing workout and have your mind immediately drift to whether or not you'll end the day in a quiet room with the lights off hoping the pain stops. Neither

is fending off constant speculation and breathless rumours about your health.

Those days, the Pittsburgh Penguins captain insists, have vanished. They disappeared over the summer, when Crosby began his annual summer ritual back home in Canada of pushing himself beyond his limits in an effort to regain the form that made him the most dominant player on the planet before a pair of hits to the head in January 2011 seemed to put his career in jeopardy.

"I'd be lying if I said the first couple weeks I wasn't evaluating that a bit, but through the first few workouts, as long as anything doesn't come up, you don't really think about it," Crosby said.

The 25-year-old's head

is clear in more ways than one. He signed a 12-year, \$104.4-million US contract extension last June that will keep him in Pittsburgh until he's pushing 40.

Now, all he has to do is go back to being Sidney Crosby.

He never quite got there last spring. Sure, the numbers look impressive: 37 points in 22 regular-season games.

Yet there were also the three months he missed after the "fuzziness," as he called it, resurfaced in December 2011. There was the 12-game goal-less drought, the longest of his career. There was the stunning first-round exit, when the Penguins were blown out by Philadelphia in six games.

"I don't think it was a matter of pressing," he said. "I think I missed a lot of time. And to get to playoff speed after missing that amount of time is pretty tough. Definitely I feel like there is another level to my game but I don't know if I can blame myself for maybe not getting a few more goals." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MLB

Posey, Heyward, Ellsbury top list of players going to arbitration

San Francisco catcher Buster Posey, Atlanta outfielder Jason Heyward and Boston outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury are among 133 players who have filed for salary arbitration.

Chicago Cubs pitcher Matt Garza and Giants outfielder Hunter Pence also are among

those who filed Tuesday.

Six extra players filed because of a change to baseball's labour contract: Washington reliever Drew Storen, San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera, Toronto catcher Josh Thole, Tampa Bay outfielder Sam Fuld, Colorado outfielder Tyler Colvin and Arizona third baseman Chris Johnson.

Players and teams are scheduled to swap proposed salaries Friday, with hearings before three-arbitrator panels next month in Phoenix.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Hot Nets grab win vs. Raptors

Brook Lopez had 22 points and nine rebounds, Joe Johnson and Deron Williams each scored 21 points, and the Brooklyn Nets extended their season-high winning streak to seven games with a 113-106 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	24	12	.667	—
New York	24	13	.649	1 ^{1/2}
Indiana	24	15	.615	1 ^{1/2}
Brooklyn	23	15	.605	2
Chicago	21	15	.583	3
Atlanta	21	16	.568	3 ^{1/2}
Boston	20	17	.541	4 ^{1/2}
Milwaukee	19	17	.528	5
Philadelphia	16	23	.410	9 ^{1/2}
Detroit	14	24	.368	11
Toronto	14	24	.368	11
Orlando	13	24	.351	11 ^{1/2}
Charlotte	9	29	.237	16
Cleveland	9	31	.225	17
Washington	7	28	.200	16 ^{1/2}

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	30	8	.789	—
L.A. Clippers	30	9	.769	1 ^{1/2}
San Antonio	29	11	.725	2
Memphis	24	12	.667	5
Golden State	23	13	.639	6
Denver	24	16	.600	7
Houston	21	18	.538	9 ^{1/2}
Portland	20	18	.526	10
Utah	21	19	.525	10
Minnesota	16	19	.457	12 ^{1/2}
L.A. Lakers	16	21	.432	13 ^{1/2}
Dallas	16	23	.410	14 ^{1/2}
Sacramento	14	24	.368	16
Phoenix	13	27	.325	18
New Orleans	12	26	.316	18

Tuesday's results

Brooklyn 113 Toronto 106
Denver 115 Portland 111 (OT)
Indiana 103 Charlotte 76
L.A. Clippers 117 Houston 109
New Orleans 111 Philadelphia 99
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers

Monday's results

Boston 100 Charlotte 89
Chicago 97 Atlanta 58
L.A. Clippers 99 Memphis 73
Dallas 113 Minnesota 98
Oklahoma City 102 Phoenix 90
Sacramento 124 Cleveland 118
Utah 104 Miami 97
Washington 120 Orlando 91

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Boston, 8 p.m.
Denver at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Houston at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Portland, 10 p.m.
Washington at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NETS 113, RAPTORS 106

TORONTO (106)

Lowry 5-7 7-7 21, Calderon 6-11 0-0 15,
Johnson 6-7 3-6 15, DeRozan 5-15 2-2 12,
Davis 6-10 0-0 12, Fields 4-6 0-0 8, Gray 2-5
2-2 6, Acy 2-2 2-2 6, Lucas 2-6 1-1 5, Ross
2-9 0-0 4, Anderson 0-4 2-3 2. Totals 40-82
19-23 106.

BROOKLYN (113)

Lopez 6-12 10-10 22, Johnson 9-18 1-1 21,
Williams 6-13 8-8 21, Blatche 7-10 0-0 14,
Teletovic 3-8 1-2 10, Watson 2-5 4-4 9,
Bogans 3-5 0-0 7, Brooks 3-5 1-3 7, Evans
1-3 0-0 2, Humphries 0-1 0-0 0, Stackhouse
0-1 0-0 0. Totals 40-81 25-28 113.

Toronto 27 23 26 30 —106
Brooklyn 27 27 29 30 —113

3-Point Goals—Toronto 7-13 (Lowry 4-5,

Calderon 3-4, Ross 0-3, Anderson 0-1).

Brooklyn 8-21 (Teletovic 3-6, Johnson 2-5,

Williams 1-5, Bogans 1-3, Watson 1-1,

Stackhouse 0-1). **Rebounds**—Toronto 41

(Fields 11, Ross 9, Davis 7, Johnson 6,

Calderon 3, DeRozan 2, Gray 2, Lowry 1).

Brooklyn 34 (Lopez 9, Evans 7, Johnson 5,

Teletovic 4, Blatche 2, Brooks 2, James 1,

Humphries 1, Watson 1, Bogans 1, Williams

1). **Assists**—Toronto 21 (Fields 5). Brooklyn

22 (Williams 7). **Total Fouls**—Toronto 21,

Brooklyn 21. A—16,236 at New York. T—2:13.

GOLF

PGA FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

Through Jan. 14 (all figures in U.S. dollars)

	Points	Money YTD
1. Russell Henley	500	\$1,000,000
2. Dustin Johnson	500	\$1,000,000
3. Tim Clark	300	\$604,800
4. Steve Stricker	300	\$665,000
5. Brandt Snedeker	190	\$432,000
6. Matt Kuchar	178	\$379,400
7. Charles Howell III	163	\$324,800
8. Scott Langley	163	\$324,800
9. Keegan Bradley	143	\$317,821
10. Tommy Gainey	128	\$238,876
11. Bubba Watson	123	\$304,000
12. Marc Leishman	120	\$218,600
13. Webb Simpson	116	\$215,667
14. Scott Piercy	110	\$210,000
15. Chris Kirk	100	\$204,400
16. Brian Stuard	100	\$204,400
17. Rickie Fowler	95	\$212,500
18. Carl Pettersson	94	\$202,096
19. John Huh	89	\$120,800
20. Jeff Overton	85	\$173,600
Also		
39. Stephen Ames	49	\$60,667
55. David Hearn	38	\$33,208
59. Brad Fritsch	33	\$26,376

NFL

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Sunday's results

AFC — New England 41 Houston 28

NFC — Atlanta 30 Seattle 28

Saturday's results

AFC — Baltimore 38 Denver 35 (OT)

NFC — San Francisco 45 Green Bay 31

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday's games — All Times Eastern

NFC — San Francisco at Atlanta, 3 p.m.

AFC — Baltimore at New England, 6:30 p.m.

SUPER BOWL XLVII

Sunday, Feb. 3

At New Orleans, La.

AFC vs. NFC champions, 6 p.m.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

At Melbourne, Australia

Tuesday's results

Men's Singles — First Round

Milos Raonic (13), Thornhill, Ont., def. Jan

Hajek, Czech Rep., 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 (0).

Jesse Levine, Ottawa, def. Tommy Robredo,

Spain, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-4.

Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Benoit

Paire, France, 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.

Andy Murray (3), Britain, def. Robin

Haase, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

Juan Martin del Potro (6), Argentina, def.

Adrian Panatta, France, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (7), France, def.

Michael Llodra, France, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.

Richard Gasquet (9), France, def. Albert

Montanes, Spain, 7-5, 6-2, 6-1.

Marin Cilic (12), Croatia, def. Marinko

Matosevic, Australia, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.

Philipp Kohlschreiber (17), Germany, def.

Steve Darcis, Belgium, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Women's Singles — First Round

Peng Shuai, China, def. Rebecca Marino,

Vancouver, 6-3, 6-0.

Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Monica

Niculescu, Romania, 6-1, 6-4.

Serena Williams (3), U.S., def. Edina

Gallavits-Hall, Romania, 6-0, 6-0.

Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, def. Sara

Errani (7), Italy, 6-4, 6-4.

Petra Kvitova (8), Czech Rep., def. Franc-

esca Schiavone, Italy, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

Caroline Wozniacki (10), Denmark, def.

Sabine Lisicki, Germany, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, def. Nadia

Petrova (12), Russia, 6-2, 6-0.



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2013 Honda Civic is here



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Style

The sedan's adjustments include completely new front and rear bodywork encompassing a more prominent grille, restyled hood and new fog and corner lights. At the opposite end, a reshaped trunk lid and bumper are flanked by a fresh set of taillights. Additionally, all trim levels feature new wheel designs.



A peek at the inner door design

2013 Honda Civic

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan.
- **Engine (hp).** 1.8-litre SOHC I4 (140); 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (201)
- **Transmission.** Five-speed manual; five-speed automatic (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$16,900

Engine

Back again is the standard 140-horsepower 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine with the optional 201-horsepower 2.4-litre four-cylinder repeating in the performance-oriented Si. The gas-electric Civic Hybrid's powertrain, which is rated at 110 horsepower, is unaltered.

Fuel economy

Fuel economy stats remain at 7.1 l/100 km in the city and 5.0 on the highway for automatic-transmission models (7.2/5.4 for manual-gearbox Civics and 4.4/4.2 for the fuel-efficient Hybrid). The more potent Si is rated at 10.0 l/100 km in the city and 6.4 highway.

Review. Maker fast, fine tuned new model after unjust 2012 criticism

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Well, there's nothing like a verbal poke in the eye to get your undivided attention.

Not all that long ago, Honda announced the mid-2011 arrival of its 2012-model-year Civic. Fans of the brand seemed pleased, as evidenced by the upwardly pointing sales charts. However, the press and a certain advertising-free consumer magazine gave Honda a rough ride, reporting that the Civic had an uninspired look, average handling and plasticky interior.

Now, most automakers would have simply ignored those comments. Not so, Honda. Whether motivated by its competitive instincts or by a desire to simply do better (or both), it's introducing a heavily revised 2013 Civic sedan well ahead of schedule.

What a difference just a single model year makes.

Structurally, changes have been initiated to improve the Civic's front-end collision protection, especially at each corner. There's high-strength steel in the A-pillars (that flank the windshield) and in the side sills below the doors.

Changes have also been made to the suspension, steering and soundproofing materials to improve ride comfort, reduce cabin noise and create a sportier driving experience.

Honda has addressed concerns regarding the Civic's interior by giving the dashboard a major makeover. There are now fewer visually irritating creases and angles and most plastic surfaces have been covered with richer-looking soft-touch materials.

It could be argued that the newly energized Civic sedan is the car that Honda should have introduced for 2012, but at least the quick response in addressing concerns will impress the legions of Civic supporters and prove the automaker's ability to make rapid change.



The Civic's interior is sleek yet simple.



The interior is appealing and stylish

By comparison



1 Hyundai Elantra
Base price: \$17,450



2 Dodge Dart
Base price: \$17,600



3 Nissan Sentra
Base price: \$16,400

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Second Gear.

2007-2010
Lincoln MKX

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

The MKX was Lincoln's entry to the luxury crossover segment occupied by such brands as BMW, Infiniti, Lexus and Audi when it hit the market for the 2010 model year.

Like most of its competition, it packed V6 power, available all-wheel drive (AWD), heaps of leather and numerous high-end features like a premium audio system by THX, leather seating, Bluetooth, navigation, an oversized sunroof and plenty more.

Common Issues

Reports of bad rear wheel bearings mean that test-drivers should listen for a fairly loud roaring noise from the rear of the vehicle. If present, be sure to have the repair calculated into your purchase price.

The sensors and computer that control the MKX's transmission may also be an issue — so note any clumsy, hard shifting or slipping as you drive. Transmission problems are likely to be electronic and not mechanical in nature — though shoppers are advised to ensure that this is the case. Shoppers should also check



PHOTO: HANDOUT

the MKX's underside (or have it checked professionally) for signs of leakage from the transmission, differential or PTU — which splits power up between the axles for the AWD system. Numerous owners have noted issues with these components leaking, which could cause problems. Check Engine or other warning lights can illuminate for numerous reasons—many of which are sensor-related. Be sure to note the presence of any such lights in the instrument cluster.

Engine



All models got a six-speed automatic transmission and 3.5 litre, 265-horsepower engine. Front-wheel drive was standard and automatic AWD was optional.

What owners like



Styling, comfort, power and handling are often highly-rated by MKX owners. The THX stereo system, interior roominess, flexibility and seat comfort are highly rated as well.

What owners dislike



Many MKX owners wish for more steering feel, better fuel economy, and stronger feedback through the brake pedal.

Verdict

The MKX's unique style and sporty performance are likely to be big draws to it as a used vehicle — though a full check-over by a mechanic should be considered mandatory.

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Detroit show sets party tone for '13



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The North American economy is far from full recovery, but you wouldn't guess it over here at the Detroit auto show. It's a party.

Almost every brand is coming off a great 2012 sales year, and most have lots of new products coming on stream in 2013. And while there is always talk about new green advances, we're not getting hit over the head with them. Seems like the automakers know green is a given, and are happy to simultaneously work on and celebrate all the other stuff — the more fun stuff — that continues to forge that emotional connection many of us have with our vehicles.

Power to the People

And one of the most emotional-rich cars on the planet — the Chevrolet Corvette — kicked off the show with the unveiling of its latest iteration. Too many go-faster stuff to go through today, but highlights include



The new Maserati Quattroporte has a 191 mph top speed. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

450-horses, a seven-speed manual transmission that automatically matches revs for fast and smooth downshifts, and lots of aluminum and carbon fibre. The styling is muscular and purposeful, and was dictated, as is should be for a sports car of this calibre, by many sessions in the wind tunnel. Another notable performance beast that debuted at Detroit was the all-new Maserati Quattro-

porte. The outgoing model is incredibly beautiful and they were smart enough to more or less keep the same styling, and just make it bigger, faster and stronger. It's even lighter, to make better use of its awesome V6 and V8 Ferrari-made engines. Top speed on the V8 model is 191 mph.

Small and Spunky

All that power on display at

Detroit may have induced Honda CEO and presenter, Takano Ito, to remind everyone that Honda still feels that "small cars are the key to the future." He then unveiled the Honda Urban SUV Concept, a small SUV based on the Honda Fit platform. A production version of this concept, and the new-generation Fit coming in 2014, will both be produced at a plant

Mexico. The world's best selling car, Toyota Corolla, is due soon for its makeover, and at Detroit we got a glimpse of what the next-gen Corolla might look like, in the form of the Corolla Furia concept. It looks pretty sporty and righteous — especially for a Corolla. Toyota has gone on record recently saying they want/need to spice things up a bit, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised.



The Hyundai Genesis also impressed in Detroit

SUVs Forever

The show also reinforced that we are still clearly in the age of the SUV. There are so many of these things in the market now, and so many more to come. VW badly needs a "midsize" SUV with seven-seat capability. To that end it created the CrossBlue SUV concept, specifically for U.S. and Canada. Seven-seat SUVs have effectively replaced minivans, and CrossBlue retains one of the minivan's best features — individual seats in the rear (keeps siblings apart and happy). CrossBlue also features a diesel-electric plug-in hybrid powertrain. Lincoln also debuted an SUV concept. The Lincoln MKC is based on Ford's ubiquitous C-platform (think Focus and Escape), and would be, if built, the smallest Lincoln on offer. As we talked about before, luxury makers are no longer afraid to go "small."

More to Come

As the first auto show of 2013, Detroit often sets the mood for the coming automotive year. The mood was definitely up this year, higher than it's been since that kick in the rear called 2008. Party on Garth.

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When buying your vehicle's rubber, look for the mountain and snowflake logo to ensure it's for winter

JILL
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drive@metronews.ca

When you're buying tires for winter, you need to look for the mountain and snowflake. This little logo, of a snowflake inside a mountain peak, is molded into tires that meet the standard for winter tread.

However, while the logo indicates winter use, it means the tire meets a minimum standard and is not by itself a measure of the tire's quality.

It's based on a tread pattern used as the industry standard. The tire must exceed the standard by 10 per cent to qualify for the logo.

"The testing is very easy, in simple terms, because it's

Quoted

"The testing is very easy, in simple terms, because it's basically straight-line performance."

Dino Tenuta, senior technical services manager for Bridgestone Canada
On how winter tires are tested

basically straight-line performance," says Dino Tenuta, senior technical services manager for Bridgestone Canada. "It doesn't take cornering into account. The logo was initially intended for consumers to identify a winter tire, but it's so easy to achieve that rating. You need to look beyond the mountain/snowflake, and do research on tire performance."

While many people think that winter tires are simply "snow tires," they're more than that. Rubber gets hard when it's cold. The rubber compound in winter tires is formulated to stay flexible in low temperatures, which improves its grip on dry or icy pavement.

Their tread is more aggressive, which helps them bite into snow, but they're also designed to channel away slush and water. If slush builds up on the tire, it dramatically reduces the tire's grip.

On wet pavement, the tread pushes water away so the rubber makes contact with the asphalt below.

If it doesn't, the tire can "float" on the water above the asphalt, a dangerous situation known as hydroplaning.

All-season tires can be used in winter, although they are a compromise. Their rubber compound is designed to stay supple in colder temperatures and firm in hot weather, but

Advice

- **Some tires are marked "Mud & Snow," or M/S.** This simply means it's an all-season tire, and is not specifically rated for winter if it doesn't have the mountain/snowflake logo
- **When to use.** You should use Winter tires any time the temperature drops below 7C, since their grip on cold pavement is better than an all-season tires.



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You won't lack for chances to move up in the world, but you have got to be quick. If you keep your eyes and ears open over the next two or three days, you will take great strides towards your ultimate goal.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Your philosophy of life will change before the end of the week, giving you a better grasp of what is truly important. Remember: No one changes before they are ready to do so — and you are ready now.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Even if you have done something you should not have done, there is no point feeling guilty about it because you cannot turn back the clock. You should be looking forward to the future. It holds so much promise.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

The planets will help you to sweep away the past and create some kind of new beginning between now and the end of the week. If that means getting rid of people who hold you back, so much the better.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Do you change something a bit at a time, or do you throw yourself at it and finish it in one mad dash? That is the question you need to answer today. Make sure you get it right. There is a lot at stake.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Stick to your strengths today and over the next 72 hours. Yes, of course, you should be ambitious but that does not mean you have to start something new. Maybe you should just do what you do already.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Someone you love and respect will fly off the handle for no good reason today. If you are smart, you will pretend you have not noticed. It's only a minor incident, so why risk making a big issue of it?

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Make the most of the Sun's last few days in Capricorn to travel. It does not matter if your journey is short or long, it matters only that you are on the move. What you discover will brighten up your life.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Cash flow problems may be ongoing but between now and the Sun's change of signs at the weekend you will understand what needs to be done to improve things. Next time though, make sure you do it a bit sooner.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

More than anything else, you need to be ruthless with yourself and get rid of all those things that you no longer need. According to the planets, that's rather a lot. You could make a small fortune on eBay.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If you are hurting in any way then you must open up and let loved ones know about it. Because you always put on a brave face, they may be completely unaware that you need a shoulder to cry on.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Sometimes you can be too cautious but today you'll be inspired to get up, get out and get busy on the kind of project that can change the world. Do you think that's too ambitious? If anything it's not ambitious enough.

SALLY BROMPTON

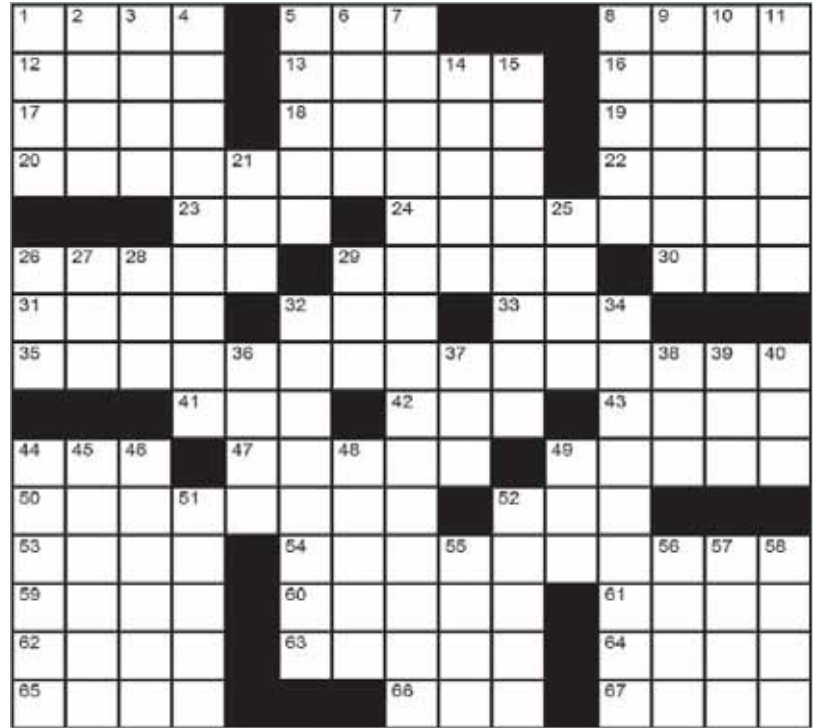
Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Comet's follower
- Joke
- Poetic contraction
- "_____, Brute?" - Caesar in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene 1
- WWII threat
- "Able was ____..." (Palindrome start)
- Printer's colour
- Trim
- Li'l house spot
- MC Hammer style: 2 wds.
- Coup d'____
- Napoleonic Wars marshal
- Oust
- Dance/fitness program
- "Beau ____" (1939)
- Never: German
- Without ____ (Penniless)
- Li'l office
- City, informally
- Currer Bell was her pen name: 2 wds.
- Mr. Butler, for short
- Shed tool
- ____ in Canada
- Some ER cases alas
- Yellow Fever mosquitoes
- James Cameron's "The ____"
- 16th Prime Minister: 2 wds.
- Evita's li'l land
- 'Cred' suffix
- Prehistoric link to the New World, Bering ____: 2 wds.
- Belgian songwriter Jacques
- How fresh fish gets packed: 2 wds.
- Study
- Departed
- "Modern Family" star Ms. Vergara
- ____ a hand
- Legend Ms. Gardner's
- Office tel. line
- Video game maker

Down

- ____ savvy
- "Right back ____!"
- ____-TASS (Russian news agency)

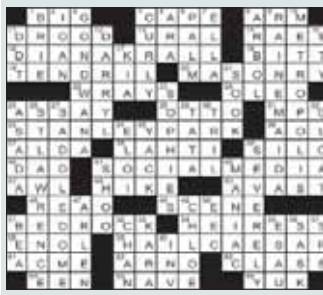


- Old Town ____, NS (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Aquarium fish
- Spell-starter
- Have "work" done: 4 wds.
- Rome's river
- Galen of President's Choice commercials
- Menswear designer
- Glam furniture piece
- Poker stakes
- Scientist's glass: 2 wds.
- Culpa's partner
- Munich mister

- Mr. Efron
- Work the aisles, in slang
- New Zealand bird
- ____ instinct
- Aurora ____
- Global series set in a munitions factory: 2 wds.
- Actress Sharon
- Greek dawn goddess
- Fancy 'not'
- QB's feats
- poet mr. cummings, and others
- Ontario's Port Burwell, the new

- permanent home of Cold War-era sub HMCS ____
- Ex-Degrassi actress Nina who stars on "The Vampire Diaries"
- Ms. Gomez
- Liquid-Plumr competitor
- Coming-in-plane, e.g.
- Boston's NBA team, for short
- Skip ____
- Gladiator's 609
- "Groove Is in the Heart" by ____-Lite
- Turf ruler
- Scandinavian story

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	5	1	7	3	6	4	9
3	4	1	9	2	6	8	7	5
9	7	6	5	8	4	1	2	3
1	3	4	6	9	2	5	8	7
7	2	8	4	5	1	9	3	6
5	6	9	8	3	7	4	1	2
6	1	3	7	4	9	2	5	8
4	5	7	2	6	8	3	9	1
8	9	2	3	1	5	7	6	4

	6					7		
	5	7	8		9	3	4	
1		8				9		6
			5	4	1			
				9				
			6	7	2			
5		3				1		7
	9	2	1		6	4	8	
	4						9	

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